

N O R T H C A R O L I N A

Violent Death
Reporting System
Union County 2004 – 2007

March 2010

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

Background and Acknowledgements

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January, 2004. This document summarizes findings from Union County, North Carolina that occurred from 2004 to 2007.

A Statewide Annual Report for 2007 will be completed by summer of 2010. More information can be found at: www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm.

The task of locating, abstracting, entering, and evaluating the data that are used to create the NC-VDRS is challenging, time-consuming and difficult. The extent and quality of the data in this report are the direct result of the dedication of the NC-VDRS staff: Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, and Susan Autry and Pat Jones, Statistical Research Assistants.

Thanks to Sharon Schiro for the analysis and programming of the NC-VDRS data, and Becca Byrd for the formatting and updating of this report.

Three advisory groups provided assistance to us with this report. The leadership of these advisory groups formed the Board Leadership & Evaluation Team (BLET). Members of the BLET for 2007 were Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kay Sanford, Phillip J. Cook, Sandra Martin, Steve Marshall, and Anna Waller.

We acknowledge the assistance and on-going support of the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout N.C. that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

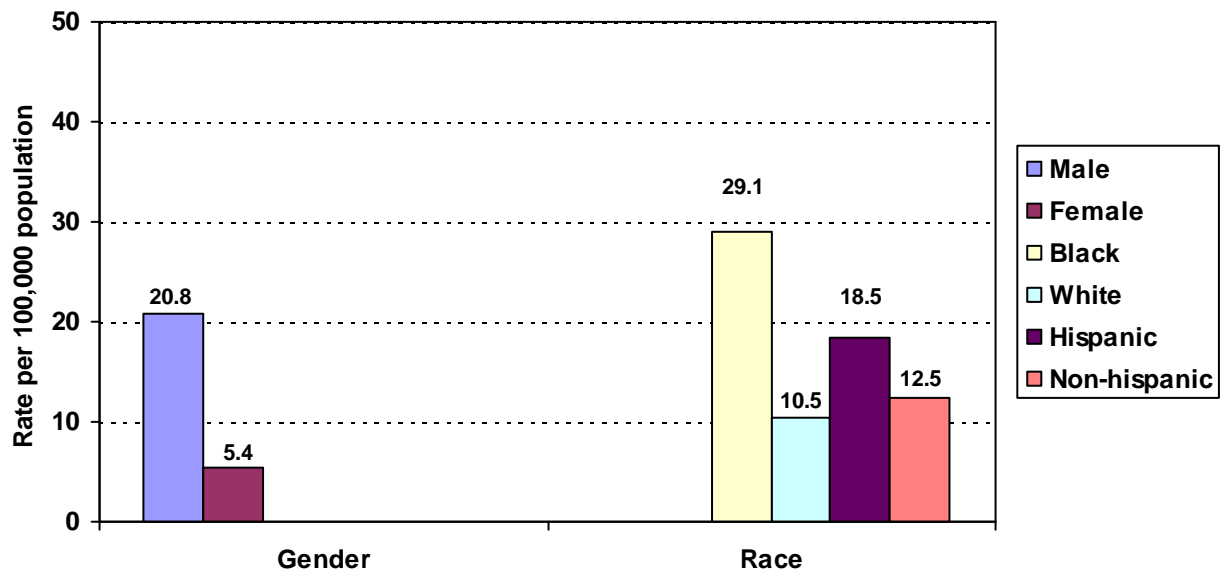
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SECTION I: OVERALL

Table 1: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	69	79.3	20.8	15.9 - 25.7
	Female	18	20.7	5.4	2.9 - 7.9
Race					
	American Indian	2	2.3	*	*
	Asian	1	1.1	*	*
	Black	24	27.6	29.1	17.4 - 40.8
	White	60	69.0	10.5	7.9 - 13.1
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	11	12.6	18.5	7.6 - 29.4
	Non-Hispanic	76	87.4	12.5	9.7 - 15.3
Age Group					
	< 1	2	2.3	*	*
	1 - 4	0	0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	3	3.4	*	*
	15 - 19	4	4.6	*	*
	20 - 24	10	11.5	22.6	8.6 - 36.6
	25 - 34	15	17.2	14.8	7.3 - 22.3
	35 - 44	19	21.8	17.6	9.7 - 25.5
	45 - 54	21	24.1	23.3	13.3 - 33.3
	55 - 64	4	4.6	*	*
	65 - 74	4	4.6	*	*
	75 - 84	3	3.4	*	*
	85 +	2	2.3	*	*
Total Deaths		87	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

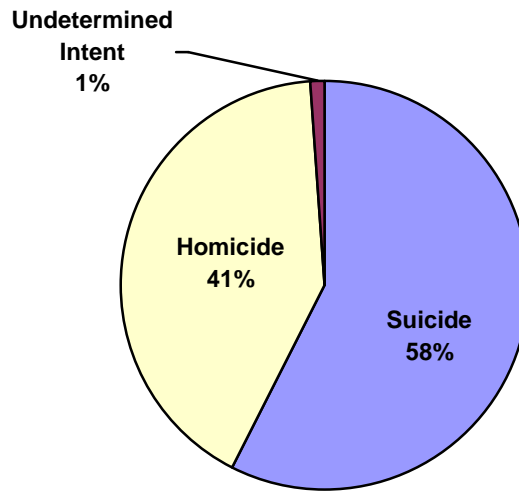
Overall Violent Death Rates by Gender and Race, Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007



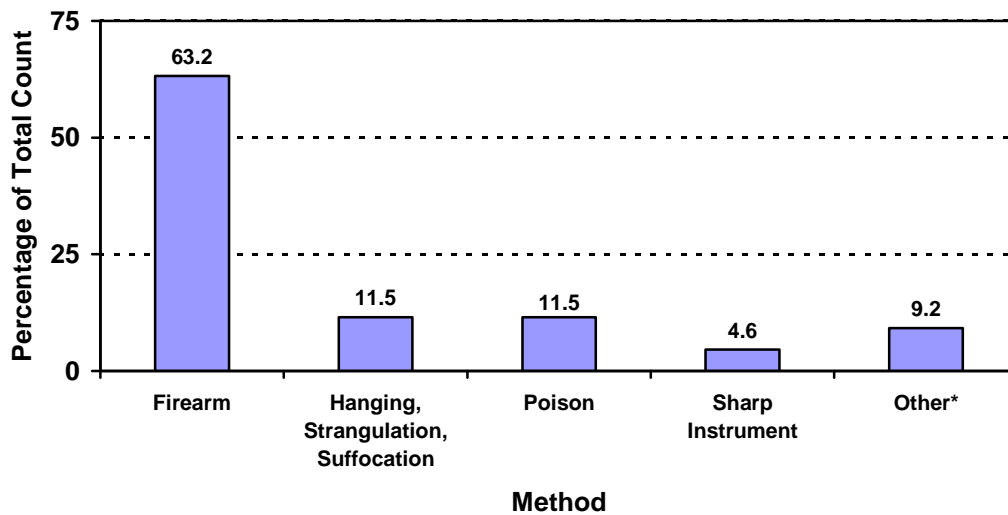
**Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	50	57.5
	Homicide	36	41.4
	Undetermined Intent	1	1.1
	Legal Intervention	0	0
	Unintentional Firearm	0	0
Method			
	Firearm	55	63.2
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	10	11.5
	Poisoning	10	11.5
	Sharp Instrument	4	4.6
	Fire or Burns	3	3.4
	Blunt Instrument	1	1.1
	Fall	1	1.1
	Intentional Neglect	1	1.1
	Unarmed Assault	1	1.1
	Violent Shaking	1	1.1
Total Deaths		87	100

**Manner of Violent Death,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



**Method of Death for Overall Violent Deaths,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, falls, drowning, fires or burns, violent shaking, motor vehicles, other transport vehicles, intentional neglect and other unspecified methods.

Table 3: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	1	1.4	*	*	1	5.6	*	*	2	2.3
Asian	0	0	*	*	1	5.6	*	*	1	1.1
Black	20	29.0	50.7	28.5 - 72.9	4	22.2	*	*	24	27.6
White	48	69.6	16.7	12.0 - 21.4	12	66.7	4.2	1.8 - 6.6	60	69.0
Total Deaths	69	100			18	100			87	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

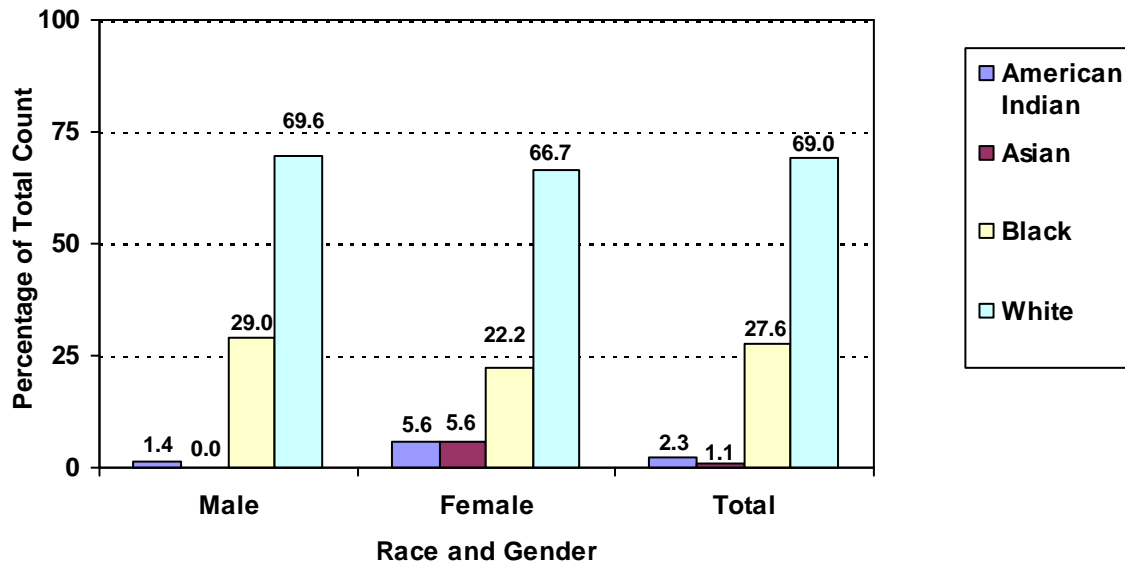
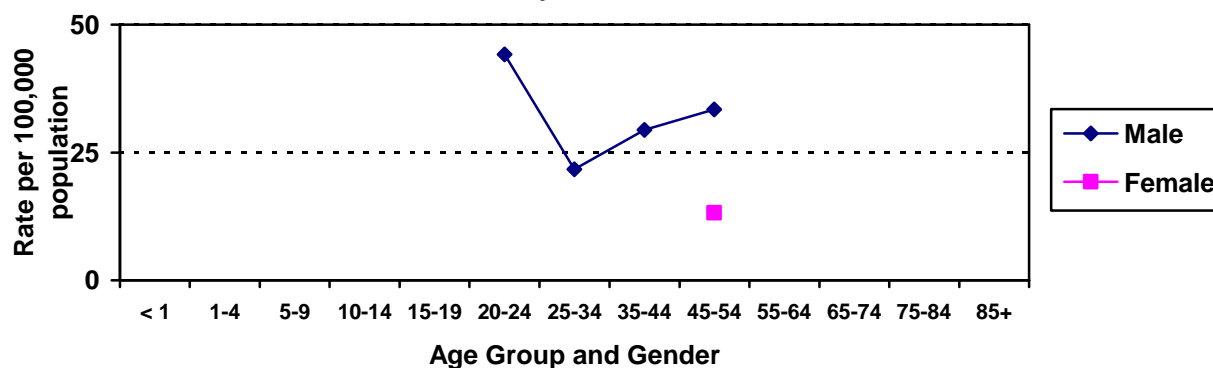


Table 4: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	0	0	*	*	2	11.1	*	*	2	2.3
1 - 4	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
5 - 9	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
10 - 14	3	4.3	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	3.4
15 - 19	4	5.8	*	*	0	0	*	*	4	4.6
20 - 24	10	14.5	44.2	16.8 - 71.6	0	0	*	*	10	11.5
25 - 34	11	15.9	21.7	8.9 - 34.5	4	22.2	*	*	15	17.2
35 - 44	16	23.2	29.4	15.0 - 43.8	3	16.7	*	*	19	21.8
45 - 54	15	21.7	33.4	16.5 - 50.3	6	33.3	13.2	2.6 - 23.8	21	24.1
55 - 64	3	4.3	*	*	1	5.6	*	*	4	4.6
65 - 74	2	2.9	*	*	2	11.1	*	*	4	4.6
75 - 84	3	4.3	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	3.4
85 +	2	2.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	2.3
Total Deaths	69	100			18	100			87	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Overall Violent Death Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

SECTION II: SUICIDE

Table 5: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Suicide Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	41	82.0	14.8	10.3 - 19.3
	Female	9	18.0	3.2	1.1 - 5.3
Race					
	American Indian	2	4.0	*	*
	Asian	0	0	*	*
	Black	5	10.0	7.4	0.9 - 13.9
	White	43	86.0	8.9	6.2 - 11.6
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	4	8.0	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	46	92.0	8.9	6.3 - 11.5
Age Group					
	10 - 14	1	2.0	*	*
	15 - 19	1	2.0	*	*
	20 - 24	4	8.0	*	*
	25 - 34	6	12.0	5.9	1.2 - 10.6
	35 - 44	12	24.0	11.1	4.8 - 17.4
	45 - 54	14	28.0	15.5	7.4 - 23.6
	55 - 64	4	8.0	*	*
	65 - 74	3	6.0	*	*
	75 - 84	3	6.0	*	*
	85 +	2	4.0	*	*
Total Deaths		50	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

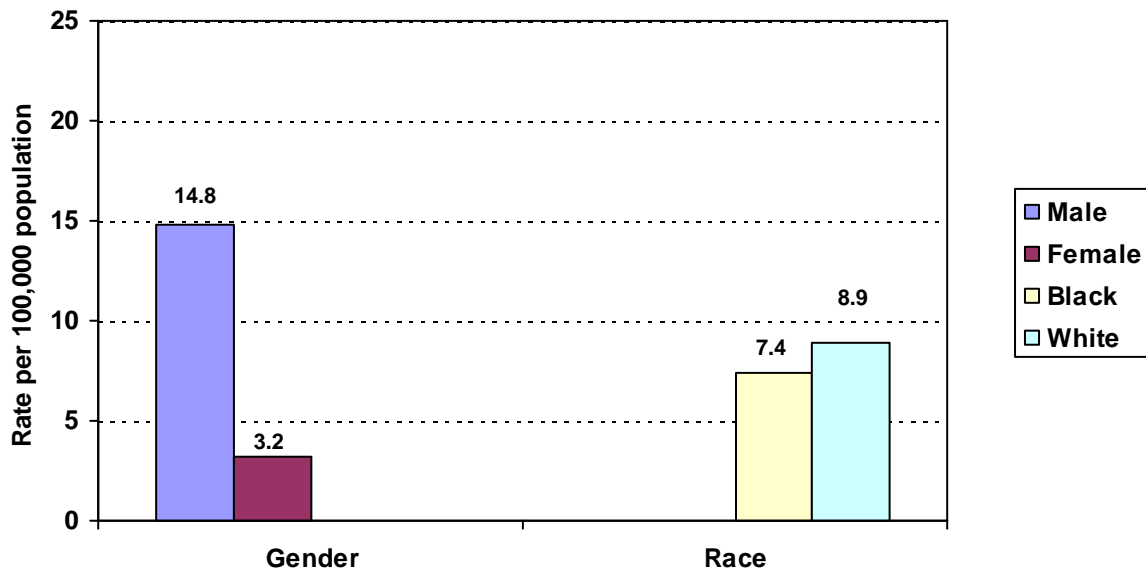
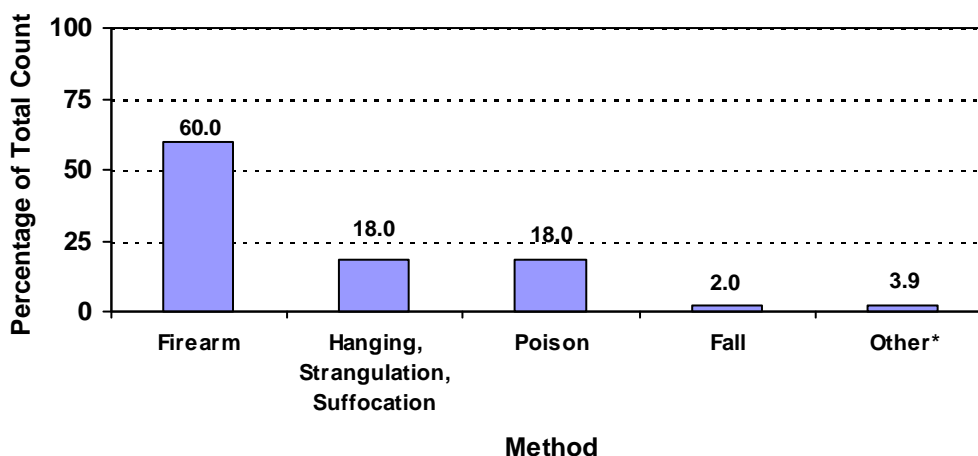


Table 6: Method of Death for Suicide Deaths in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Method			
	Firearm	30	60.0
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	9	18.0
	Poisoning	9	18.0
	Fall	1	2.0
	Fire or Burns	1	2.0
Total Deaths		50	100

**Method of Death for Suicide Deaths,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, fires or burns, motor vehicle, sharp instruments, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 7: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	1	2.4	*	*	1	11.1	*	*	2	4.0
Black	4	9.8	*	*	1	11.1	*	*	5	10.0
White	36	87.8	15.0	10.1 - 19.9	7	77.8	2.9	0.8 – 5.0	43	86.0

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Suicide Victims,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

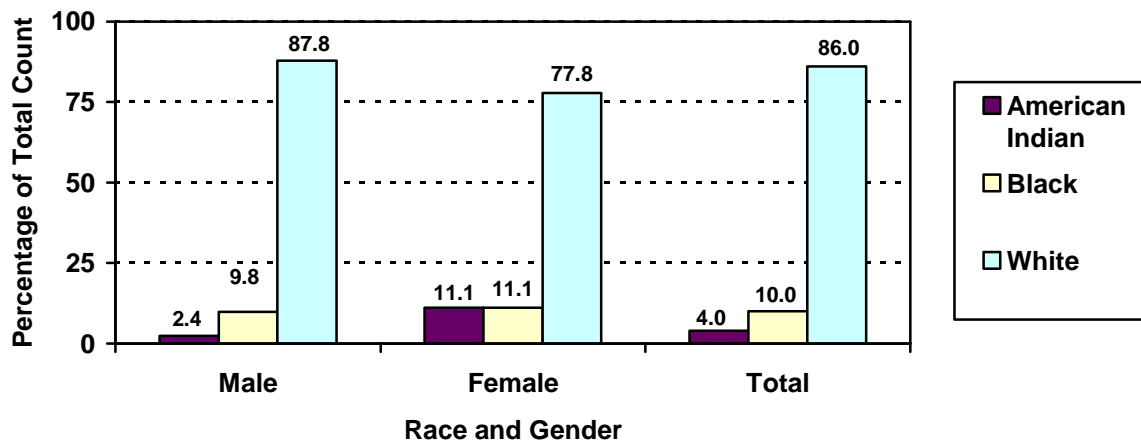
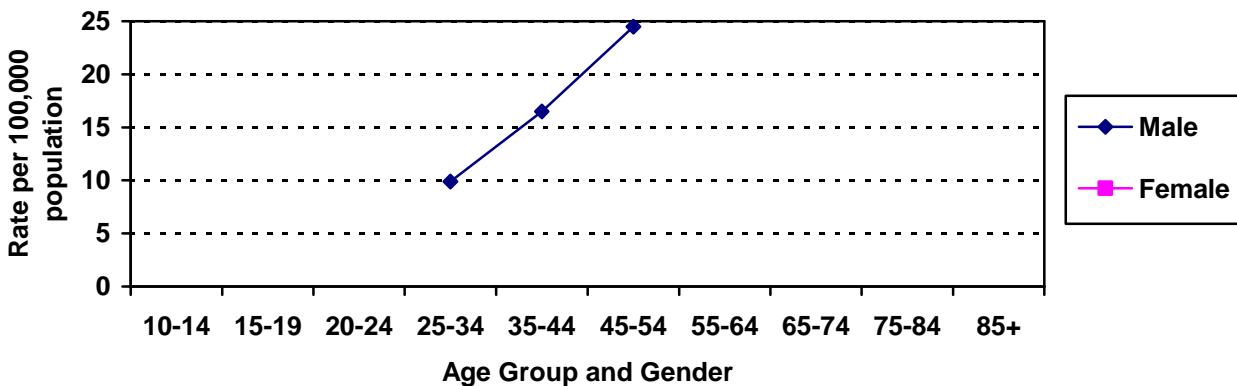


Table 8: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
10 - 14	1	2.4	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	2.0
15 - 19	1	2.4	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	2.0
20 - 24	4	9.8	*	*	0	0	*	*	4	8.0
25 - 34	5	12.2	9.9	1.3 - 18.5	1	11.1	*	*	6	12.0
35 - 44	9	22	16.5	5.7 - 27.3	3	33.3	*	*	12	24.0
45 - 54	11	26.8	24.5	10.0 – 39.0	3	33.3	*	*	14	28.0
55 - 64	3	7.3	*	*	1	11.1	*	*	4	8.0
65 - 74	2	4.9	*	*	1	11.1	*	*	3	6.0
75 - 84	3	7.3	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	6.0
85 +	2	4.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	4.0
Total Deaths	41	100			9	100			50	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



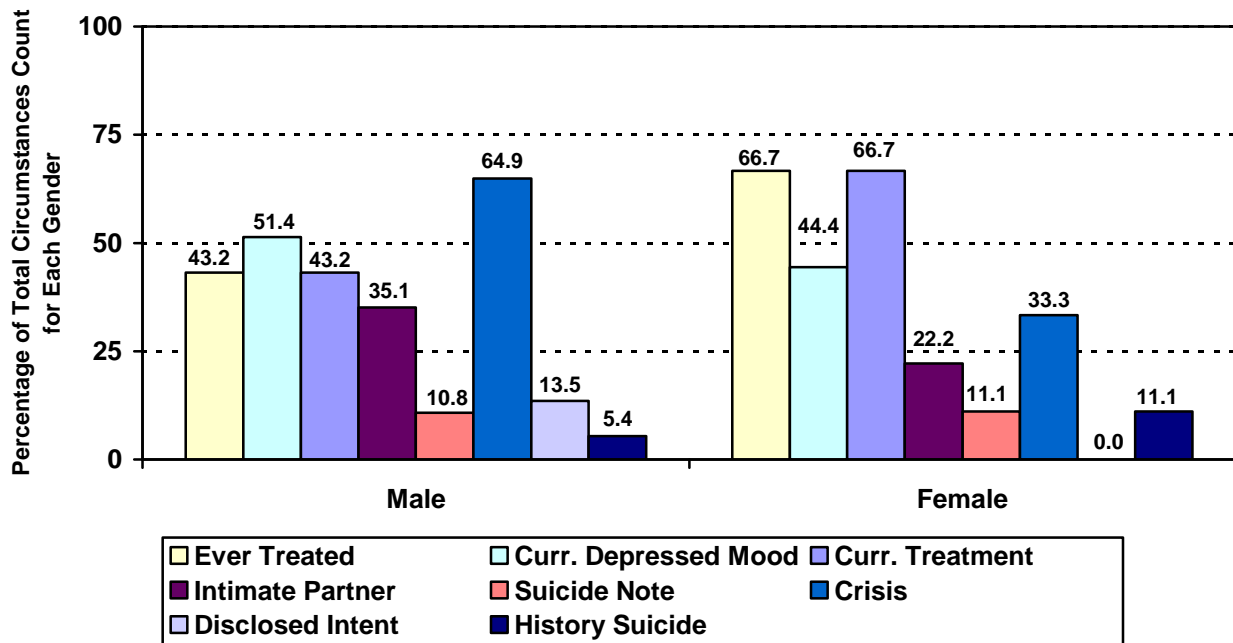
Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 9: Circumstances of Suicide Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Victim Circumstances						
Current depressed mood	19	51.4	4	44.4	23	50.0
Current treatment for mental illness	16	43.2	6	66.7	22	47.8
Ever treated for mental illness	16	43.2	6	66.7	22	47.8
Alcohol problem	8	21.6	2	22.2	10	21.7
Other substance problem	4	10.8	2	22.2	6	13.0
Left a suicide note	4	10.8	1	11.1	5	10.9
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	5	13.5	0	0	5	10.9
History of suicide attempts	2	5.4	1	11.1	3	6.5
Crisis in past two weeks	24	64.9	3	33.3	27	58.7
Physical health problem	9	24.3	2	22.2	11	23.9
Intimate partner problem	13	35.1	2	22.2	15	32.6
Other relationship problem	2	5.4	0	0	2	4.3
Job problem	5	13.5	1	11.1	6	13.0
School problem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial problem	2	5.4	0	0	2	4.3
Suicide of family or friend in past 5 years	1	2.7	0	0	1	2.2
Other death of friend/ family	1	2.7	0	0	1	2.2
Recent criminal/ legal problem	4	10.8	1	11.1	5	10.9
Other legal problems	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month	4	10.8	1	11.1	5	10.9
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Circumstances are only available for 1,000 of the 1,085 suicide deaths where age was ≥ 10 . The denominator of the percentage is the total number of suicide victims for each gender category who had circumstance data available. Each suicide victim may have 0 to many circumstances.

**Circumstances by Gender for Suicide Victims,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Note: Multiple options are available therefore such responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

**Table 10: Mental Illnesses Under Treatment at the Time of Suicide in
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Mental Illness			
Depression/ Dysthymia	15	4	19
Anxiety Disorder	3	1	4
Bipolar Disorder	2	1	3
Schizophrenia	1	1	2
ADD or Hyper-Reactivity Disorder	1	0	1
Other	1	0	1

SECTION III: HOMICIDE

Table 11: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Homicide Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	27	75.0	8.1	5.0 - 11.2
	Female	9	25.0	2.7	0.9 - 4.5
Race					
	American Indian	0	0	*	*
	Asian	1	2.8	*	*
	Black	18	50.0	21.8	11.7 - 31.9
	White	17	47.2	3.0	1.6 - 4.4
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	7	19.4	11.8	3.1 - 20.5
	Non-Hispanic	29	80.6	4.8	3.1 - 6.5
Age Group					
	< 1	2	5.6	*	*
	1 - 4	0	0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	2	5.6	*	*
	15 - 19	3	8.3	*	*
	20 - 24	6	16.7	13.6	2.7 - 24.5
	25 - 34	9	25.0	8.9	3.1 - 14.7
	35 - 44	7	19.4	6.5	1.7 - 11.3
	45 - 54	6	16.7	6.7	1.4 - 12.0
	55 - 64	0	0	*	*
	65 - 74	1	2.8	*	*
	75 - 84	0	0	*	*
	85 +	0	0	*	*
Total Deaths		36	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Homicide Rates by Gender and Race, Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

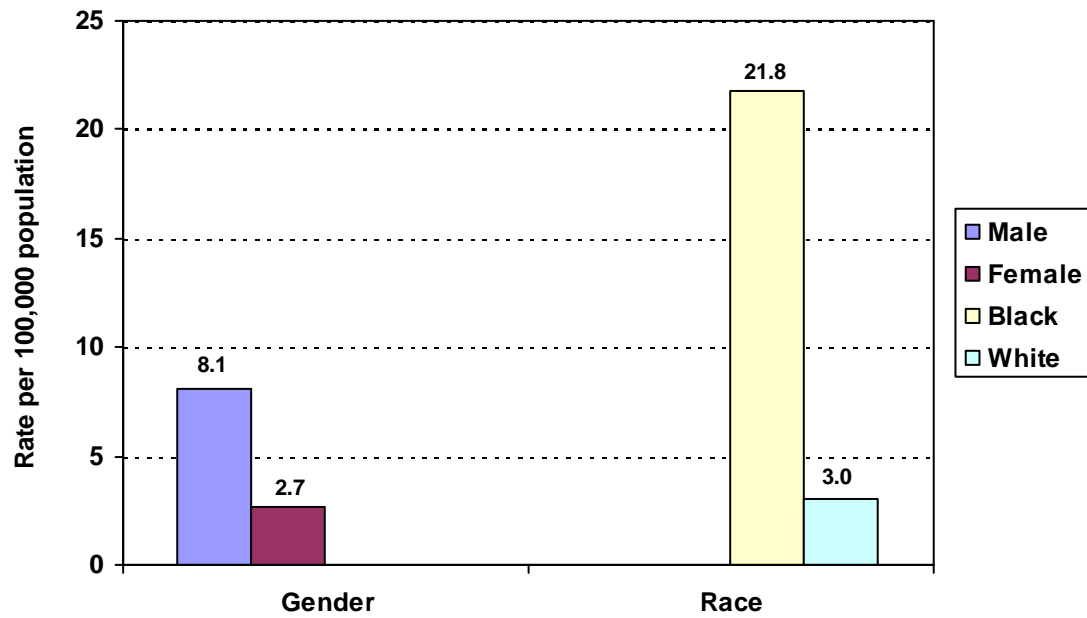
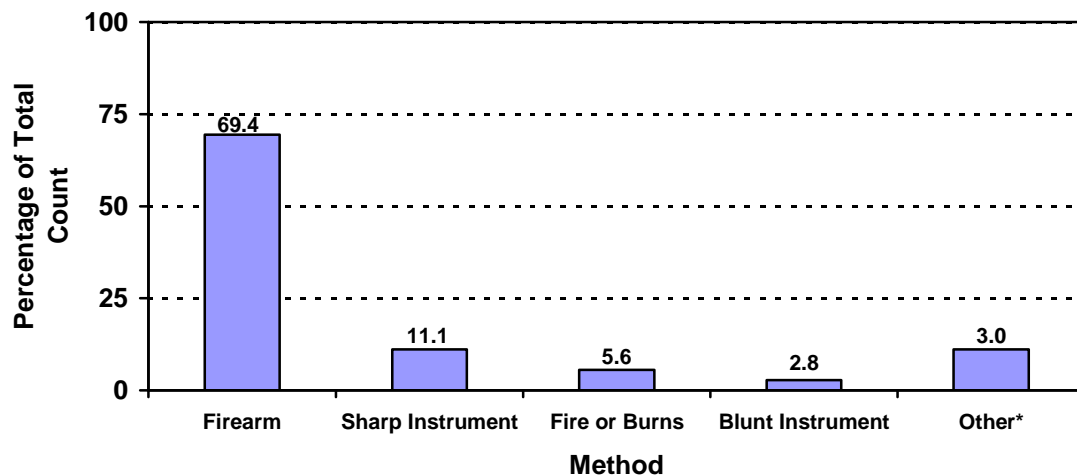


Table 12: Method of Death for Homicide Deaths in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Method		Number	%
	Firearm	25	69.4
	Sharp Instrument	4	11.1
	Fire or Burns	2	5.6
	Blunt Instrument	1	2.8
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	1	2.8
	Intentional Neglect	1	2.8
	Unarmed Assault	1	2.8
	Violent Shaking	1	2.8
Total Deaths		36	100

Method of Death for Homicide Deaths, Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007



* Other methods include: hanging/ strangulation/ suffocation, drowning, motor vehicle, falls, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 13: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
Asian	0	0	*	*	1	11.1	*	*	1	2.8
Black	15	55.6	38.0	18.8 - 57.2	3	33.3	*	*	18	50.0
White	12	44.4	4.2	1.8 - 6.6	5	55.6	1.7	0.2 - 3.2	17	47.2

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Homicide Victims,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

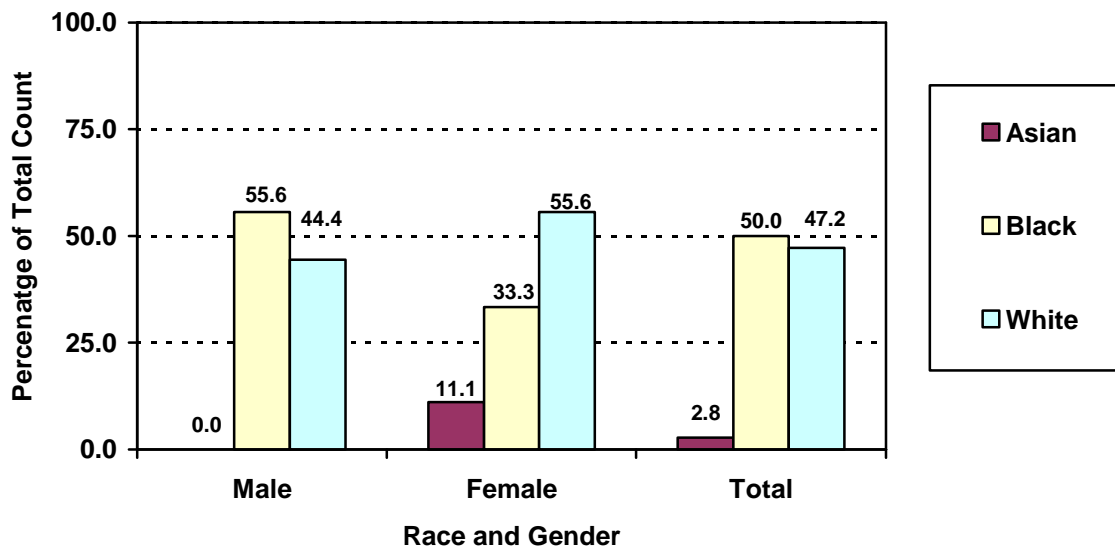
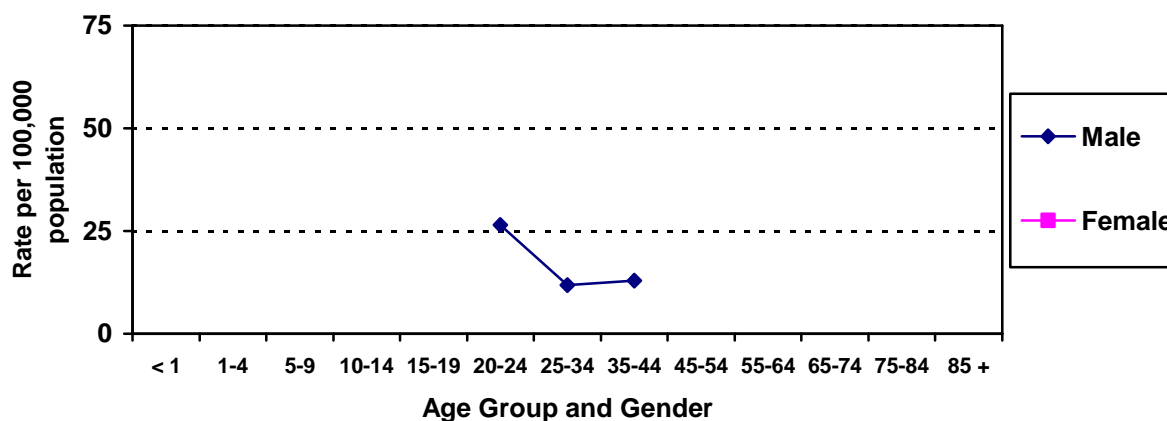


Table 14: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	0	0	*	*	2	22.2	*	*	2	5.6
1 - 4	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
5 - 9	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
10 - 14	2	7.4	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	5.6
15 - 19	3	11.1	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	8.3
20 - 24	6	22.2	26.5	5.3 - 47.7	0	0	*	*	6	16.7
25 - 34	6	22.2	11.8	2.3 - 21.3	3	33.3	*	*	9	25.0
35 - 44	7	25.9	12.9	3.4 - 22.4	0	0	*	*	7	19.4
45 - 54	3	11.1	*	*	3	33.3	*	*	6	16.7
55 - 64	0	0	*	*	1	11.1	*	*	1	2.8
65 - 74	3	1.2	*	*	2	3.5	*	*	5	1.6
85 +	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
Total Deaths	27	100			9	100			36	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Homicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 15: Circumstances of Homicides in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Event Circumstances			
	Other argument, abuse, or conflict	13	43.3
	Precipitated by another serious crime	11	36.7
	Intimate partner violence related	7	23.3
	Drug Involvement	5	16.7
	Argument over money or property	2	6.7
	Jealousy (lovers triangle)	1	3.3
Victim Characteristics			
	Intervener assisting a crime victim	2	6.7
	Justifiable self defense	1	3.3
	Victim used a weapon	1	3.3

*The denominator of the percentage is the total number of homicide victims who had circumstance data available. Each homicide victim may have anywhere from zero to many circumstances.

Table 16: Crimes Precipitating Homicides in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Crime			
Robbery	2	2	4
Drug Trade	2	1	3
Burglary	2	1	3
Rape, Sexual Assault	0	2	2
Other	2	0	2
Assault, Homicide	0	1	1

Table 17: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death in Union County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Weapon Type	Manner of Death										Total	
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Firearm	30	60.0	25	69.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	63.2
Poisoning	9	18.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	10	11.5
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	9	18.0	1	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	11.5
Sharp Instrument	0	0	4	11.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4.6
Fire or Burns	1	2.0	2	5.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3.4
Blunt Instrument	0	0	1	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.1
Unarmed Assault		1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.1
Fall	1	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.1
Violent Shaking	0	0	1	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.1
Intentional Neglect	0	0	1	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.1
Total Deaths	50	100	36	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	87	100

Table 18: Type of Firearm by Manner of Death in Union County, NC; 2004 – 2007
For Firearm Deaths Only

Firearm Type	Manner of Death											
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	22	73.3	19	76.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	74.5
Shotgun	7	23.3	1	4.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	14.5
Rifle	1	3.3	2	8.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5.5
Other	0	0	2	8.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.6
Unknown Firearm Type	0	0	1	4.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.8
Total Deaths	30	100	25	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	100

GLOSSARY

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was less than 18 years of age on date of death.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer or some other peace officer, including military police, acting in the line of duty. Includes legal executions.
Occurrent death	Death occurred in NC. Decedent may or may not have been a NC resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as count x 100,000/population.
Resident death	Victim was a NC resident at the time of death and the death occurred in NC. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides, and legal interventions.



State of North Carolina • Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary
Division of Public Health • Jeffrey P. Engel, State Health Director
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

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